

**RICHTER PARK AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**  
**@ Danbury Police Department**  
**Tuesday, October 19 2021, 6:00 PM**

*In compliance with Connecticut General Statute § 1-225, these minutes are being provided for informational purposes and are subject to approval of the Richter Park Authority Board of Directors at its next regular meeting.*

Chairman Pete Siecienski opened the meeting at 6:02 PM.

Members present: Pete Siecienski, John Priola, Leroy Diggs, Al Mead, Paul DiNardo (taking Bob Eberhard's spot), Judy Griemsmann and Dave Lajoie. George Radachowsky arrived at 6:13pm and Wendy Grispin arrived at 6:50pm)

Also present: Karen Madaus, Business Manager, Jonathan Pinto, Head Golf Professional, Rob Dorsch, Golf Course Superintendent and Bobby Bria, Musicals at Richter.

Absent: Bob Eberhard and Felix Bonacci.

**Public participation**

none

**Approve minutes of previous meetings**

Mr. Mead made a motion to approve the minutes from the September RPA meeting, as long as spelling of "emeritus" was corrected. Mr. Lajoie seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Correspondence**

none.

**Arts Association**

The RAA had a board meeting yesterday. They are hopeful about a grant they had applied for. The RAA Board decided on a maintenance request which was given to Rob with costs. Arts performances have been happening behind the house. Betty Clark did a superlative job in making the Richter House look great for performances! The RAA Board also discussed parking policies during events. Board members would like some changes:

- 1) Handicapped drivers with a tag can park near the house
- 2) A driven handicapped person can be dropped off at the house
- 3) Performers with equipment can park there/artists can park for drop-off
- 4) Arts Board hosts can park at the house during the event.

Access for emergency vehicles needs to happen, therefore, people with a handicap sticker can park on the grass, but not the entire lawn, just a small area of grass which would hold 2-3 cars max normally.

Mr. Siecienski spoke about mobility issues, parking, mold, and the “spirit of cooperation”. He also spoke about the reimbursable State grant, the \$5-\$6mil needed to complete the project and that that amount doesn’t include notes about capacity. There will be a new administration coming to the Mayor’s office this November. There was some discussion about de-classifying the historical status of the Richter House, but the process will need to be explored. The RAA and RPA need to work together.

Mrs. Griemsmann complimented Mr. Siecienski on encouraging the RAA and RPA to work together. Mr. Siecienski plans to meet with the new Mayor and staff after the election to discuss plans going forward.

### **Musicals at Richter**

We are excited to work with the new Chairman. There will be a virtual annual meeting next month. In 2022, there will be three shows. We are looking for various grants.

### **MPC-Richter House**

There was a MPC meeting in June. The Richter House needs to be focused on. Mrs. Griemsmann is looking for the grant requests and bids from 2020.

There is a mold report from the summer that needs to be found, and then it will be presented to the RPA.

### **FORe**

The memorial walkway and bricks were discussed. Installation needs to be stable. The fundraising breakfast will be late April/early May 2022. Lloyd Cutsumpas will be the honoree. The “Felix Bonacci walkway” was also discussed, and Mr. DiNardo discussed plowing the area during winter.

### **Business Manager’s Report**

Golf outings are done for the season and we are starting the budget process.

### **Head Golf Professional**

September was a very wet month and the numbers were slightly down. We are 300 rounds up over last year (January – September including outings, leagues and passes). The Pro Shop sales are up from last year as well. October has been a great month so far. Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 10am shotguns/reduced rates will start. The annual Turkey Shoot is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Priola made a motion to pay for \$500 of the Assistant Pro’s (Joe Forget) expenses/airfare for the annual PGA show in Florida. Mr. Mead seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **Grounds and Greens**

The first light frost was today, which is a month later than last year. The reservoir is full, which is helpful to us with the weeds. We are currently in leaf season and preparing for winter. Mr. Mead is the Grounds and Greens Chairman, and is holding a meeting next Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Maintenance office. Mr. Lajoie commended Mr. Dorsch on course conditions; that the course is in the best shape ever.

## **Financial report**

As of 9/30/21, things are looking good financially compared to last year and the budget. Regarding the loan which started in November 2015 and the Driving range loan which started three years ago (will mature in nine years) – when these loans are paid off, we will have that payment money available to spend on Capital improvements.

Mr. Mead made a motion to accept the financial report and place it on file. Ms. Grispin seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

## **Finance Committee Report**

The 2022 budget process is starting. The staff will make recommendations and present them at the November RPA meeting. The RPA will vote on the 2022 budget at the December RPA meeting. Mr. Diggs if anyone had suggestions for greens fees and passes for next year. Mr. Pinto said that he will re-evaluate the Season Passes for next year, and that if there is an increase in greens fees, it should be for the non-residents only. Mr. Siecienski stated that we should look at non-active veteran's discounts at other golf courses. Mr. Diggs suggested that we adjust the outing financial numbers next year, as they were a lot lower than in the budget. Mr. Pinto stated that we currently have 38,500 paid rounds, with over 42,000 actual rounds.

Mr. Mead stated that we need around \$250K for the winter. In 2020, we were well over that, and hopefully in 2021, we will be the same. Mr. Siecienski stated that we need to put some money back into the golf course on Capital improvements.

## **Chairman's Comments/Report**

Thank you to the Richter Arts folks for attending.

## **Old business**

Felix Bonacci was invited to attend tonight's meeting but couldn't. Perhaps there can be a meeting at Richter for the installation of the "Felix Bonacci" Memorial Walk. Now that Mr. Bonacci was approved for his Emeritus status, the new Mayor will need to appoint a new alternate to the RPA.

## **New business**

Mr. Priola and Mr. Siecienski met with David St. Hilaire at Richter Park. They thanked him and the City for the paving of the parking lot. They also walked through the Richter House and discussed the possibility of a cell tower.

There are Capital improvement projects which need to be completed: the bunker project is half done, and the tee boxes need to be repaired. This year, some of the tee boxes can resume repairs. There was some discussion over quotes on the repairs, pricing and timing. If work is to be completed before 2022 opening, we need to start in the fall (by 11/15/21).

Mr. Dorsch had some quotes, with US Pitchcare being the cheapest, and they have worked with the City of Danbury (Rogers Park, etc.). He stated that we can purchase the materials as we are tax exempt. Mr. Priola made a motion to accept the bid from US Pitchcare, subject to the upcoming Grounds & Greens meeting, who will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee to get the project moving in time and quickly. Mr. Mead seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Pinto stated that there are some repairs to be aware of, including replacing the wood at the front door entrance, window re-tinting in the Pro Shop, and a Pro Shop update. He is working on pricing and bids for these. The large clock for the front is still being looked into. There is also a need for a better sound system as well.

Mr. Mead made a motion to adjourn at 7:43pm. Mr. Priola seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**